

CLIENT-SIDE PRICING AGENT FOR COLLECTING AND MANAGING
PRODUCT PRICE INFORMATION OVER THE INTERNET

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of collecting product data, e.g., from a
5 plurality of web sites on the Internet. The method is
operative from a client computer and utilizes a pricing
agent. Using the agent, a user can generate a set of
product profiles each identifying a given site URL, a
list of one or more included items to be queried, a scan
10 interval, and a site template. For a given product
profile, the agent periodically retrieves data from the
given site URL at the scan interval. It then parses the
data retrieved according to the site template to generate
a data record for each included item comprising an item
15 name, an associated price value and, optionally, a
secondary source. The retrieved data may also be
compared against one or more threshold expressions to
generate given actions.